

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2 and 12-13 were previously canceled and claims 3-8 and 10 have been canceled as a result of this amendment. Claims 9 and 11 have been amended as a result of this response. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 9 and dependent claim 11 stand in condition for allowance.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 have been amended to place the claim in proper form.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-7 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Hellberg (WO 01/95481), claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hellberg (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0137346), and claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ditcham (U.S. Patent No. 2,085,011).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to claim 11. Amended claim 11 depends from allowable subject matter, therefore this rejection is obviated.

With respect to claims 3-8 and 10, the cancellation of those claims renders this rejection moot.

III. Conclusion

All substantive matters having been addressed in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

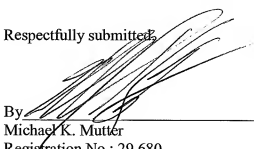
Applicants' undersigned representative remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. If any point remains an issue in which the Examiner feels would be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter, Reg. No. 29,680 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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